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AN
ORATION

ON THE
DISCOVERY

OF

America.

DELIVERED
IN LONDON,

OCTOBER the 12th, 1792,

BEING THREE HUNDRED YEARS FROM THE DAY ON
WHICH

COLUMBUS

LANDED IN THE

NEW WORLD.

== K ==
BY ELHANAN WINCHESTER.
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ORATION

DISCOVERY

BRITISH

IN LONDON



COLLECTIONS

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BY MURRAY & CO.

AN
ORATION, &c.

I Have for some years had it upon my mind, that if Providence preserved my life to the close of the third century, from the discovery of America by Columbus, that I would celebrate that great event, by a publick discourse upon the occasion.

And although I sincerely wish that some superior genius would take up the subject, and treat it with the attention that it deserves, yet conscious as I am of my own inability, I am persuaded that America has not a warmer friend in the world than myself, not one who more sincerely wishes its happiness, peace, and prosperity; and therefore I will endeavour to do the best I can, and hope my beloved countrymen will excuse the defects of this composition, and accept it as a token of my love and regard to my native country.

The discovery of America by Columbus was situated, in point of time, between two great events, which have caused it to be much more noticed, and have rendered it far more important than it would otherwise have been. I mean *the art of printing*, which was discovered about the year 1440, and which has been and will be of infinite use to mankind; and *the reformation* from Popery, which began about the year 1517, the effects of which have already been highly beneficial in a political, as well as in a religious point of light, and will still continue and increase.

These three great events, the *art of printing*,—the *discovery of America*,—and the *reformation*, followed each other in quick succession; and, combined together, have already produced much welfare and happiness to mankind, and certainly will produce abundance more. By the art of printing, knowledge is far more generally diffused among mankind, and at far less expence than otherwise it could have been: and, as knowledge is extended, so, in proportion, is civilization, and all the arts and sciences that enrich, and embellish society. But what I esteem more than every thing else is, that by the noble art of printing, Bibles, in various languages, are so multiplied that they will never more become scarce, nor will there ever more be so much as the shadow of danger of the sacred writings being lost or destroyed out of the world.

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By the discovery of America, there was much room given to the inhabitants of the old world; an asylum was prepared for the persecuted of all nations to fly to for safety; and a grand theatre was erected where Liberty might safely lift up her standard, and triumph over all the foes of freedom. America may be called, *The very birth-place of civil and religious liberty*, which had never been known to mankind until since the discovery of that country.

By the Reformation, which so soon followed the discovery of America, the minds of men began to emerge out of that darkness, ignorance, blindness, bondage, idolatry, and superstition, in which they had grovelled for ages; and they have been since gradually opening to greater degrees of knowledge and intellectual improvement.

But the event that we celebrate on this day is the discovery of America, to which event, and the great consequences that have already flowed, and will probably hereafter flow, from it, I shall principally confine myself in this discourse.

It will be proper here to give a brief historical account of the discovery of America, by Columbus, for the information of those who have not had an opportunity of reading history.

Christopher Columbus was a native of the little state of Genoa, he was a man of more than common penetration. From a long and diligent ap-

plication to the studies of geography and navigation, for which his genius was naturally inclined, he had obtained a knowledge of the true form of the earth, much superior to the general notions of the age in which he lived. He conceived, that in order that the terraqueous globe might be properly balanced, and the lands and seas proportioned to each other, that another continent was necessary. Thus he was far wiser than the ancients, who treated the idea of antipodes with contempt; and some of the christian fathers went so far as to account it an error little short of damnable heresy.

As early as the year 1474, Columbus communicated his ingenious theory to Paul, a physician of Florence, eminent for his knowledge of cosmography. He warmly approved it, suggested several facts in confirmation of it, and encouraged Columbus, in an undertaking so laudable; and which promised so much benefit to the world at large.

Having fully satisfied himself that his system was founded in truth, he was exceedingly desirous of reducing it to practice. The first step towards the accomplishment of this, was to secure the patronage of some of the European potentates. Accordingly he laid his scheme before the senate of Genoa, making his native country the first tender of his services. But they rejected his proposal as the dream of a chimerical projector.

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It might, in this respect, be said of Columbus, as our Saviour said of himself; "No prophet is accepted in his own country." It shewed, however, a good disposition in Columbus, to tender his services first to his own countrymen; and they must have afterwards been highly displeased with themselves that they had not encouraged him.

He next applied himself to John II, king of Portugal, a monarch of an enterprising genius, and a very competent judge of naval affairs. The king listened to him in the most favourable manner, and referred the consideration of his plan, to a number of eminent cosmographers, whom he was accustomed to consult in matters of this kind. These men, from mean and interested views, started innumerable objections, and asked many captious questions, on purpose to betray Columbus into a full explanation of his system. Having done this, they advised the king to dispatch a vessel secretly, in order to attempt the proposed discovery, by following exactly the course Columbus had pointed out. John forgetting, on this occasion, the sentiments becoming a monarch, meanly adopted their perfidious counsel. Upon discovering this dishonourable transaction, Columbus quitted the kingdom, and landed in Spain in the year 1484.

Here he presented his scheme in person to Ferdinand and Isabella, who at that time governed

the united kingdoms of Castile and Arragon. They injudiciously submitted it to the examination of unskilful judges, who, ignorant of the principles on which Columbus founded his theory, rejected it as absurd, upon the credit of this foolish maxim,—“ That it is presumptuous in any person to suppose, that he alone possesses knowledge superior to all the rest of mankind united.” Whereas the fact is, that every person who first makes any new discovery, in that instance, possesses more knowledge than all the rest of mankind put together. These ignorant Spaniards also maintained, that if there were really any such countries as Columbus pretended, they would not have remained so long concealed, nor would the wisdom and sagacity of former ages have left the glory of this discovery to an obscure Genoese pilot. Thus they despised the plan on the account of the obscurity of its projector, and that it was not discovered by the great and the wise. Thus was Christianity itself despised by many for the same absurd reason; and almost every science that has essentially benefited mankind; it being generally the pleasure of God to make use of those instruments which the world accounts mean, for the discovery and propagation of useful things.

Mean while Columbus had taken the precaution of sending his brother Bartholomew into England to negotiate the matter with Henry VII. On his voyage

voyage to England, he fell into the hands of pirates, who stripped him of every thing, and detained him a prisoner several years. At length he made his escape, and arrived at London in extreme indigence, where he employed himself some time in selling maps. With his gains he purchased a decent dress; and, in person, presented to the king the proposals which his brother had entrusted to his management.

One is almost tempted to lament, that England should not have had the glory and honour of encouraging this great man, and especially as the king of England was the most rich and powerful monarch of Europe, and therefore could best have sustained the expence of the voyage, and protected, supported, and rewarded, the worthy navigator. But though Henry received the proposals with more approbation than they had commonly met with, yet his extreme caution and parsimony caused him to neglect the prize then offered to his hand.

In France, the scheme of Columbus was not only rejected, but treated with the utmost contempt, both by the Court and the common people, and the projector looked upon as no better than a mad man.

After several other applications to other European powers of less note, Columbus was induced, by the intreaty and interposition of Perez, a man of considerable learning, and of some credit with queen.

queen Isabella, to apply again to the court of Spain. This application, after much debate, and several mortifying repulses, proved successful ; not, however, without the most vigorous and persevering exertions of Quintilla and Santangel, two vigilant and discerning patrons of Columbus, whose meritorious zeal in promoting this grand design, entitles their names to an honourable mention in the historic page. It was, however, to queen Isabella, the munificent patroness of his noble and generous designs, that Columbus ultimately owed his success.

Having thus obtained the assistance of the court, three small vessels were fitted out, victualed for twelve months, and furnished with ninety men. The whole expence did not exceed 4000*l.* and to raise even this sum, the queen sold or pawned part of her jewels. Of this little squadron Columbus was appointed admiral.

Thus after wasting, as it were, eighteen years of his useful life in unsuccessful applications to almost all the courts of Europe, he at last succeeded in being trusted with a small fleet, for the accomplishment of this most important enterprize. It is a great wonder that he had not long before been entirely discouraged, and given up the design ; but God, who had raised him up for this purpose, gave him a fortitude and resolution far beyond what is common to men, and which enabled him to endure what would have been otherwise impossible.

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On the 3d of August, 1492, he left Spain in the presence of a crowd of spectators, who united their supplications to Heaven for his success. He steered directly for the Canary islands, where he arrived, and refitted as well as he could, his crazy and ill appointed fleet : from thence he sailed, September the 6th, a due western course into an unknown ocean.

Columbus now found a thousand unforeseen hardships to encounter, which demanded all his judgment, fortitude and address, to surmount. Besides the difficulties unavoidable, from the nature of his undertaking, he had to struggle with those which arose from the ignorance and timidity of the people under his command. They getting into the trade winds, were alarmed, lest they should never be able to return again, but should be driven farther and farther till they should perish.

On the 14th of September, Columbus was astonished to find, that the magnetic needle, in their compass, did not point exactly to the polar star, but varied towards the west ; and, as they proceeded, this variation increased. This new phenomenon filled the companions of Columbus with terror. Nature itself seemed to have sustained a change ; and, the only guide they had left to point them to a safe retreat, from an unbounded and trackless ocean, was about to fail them. Colum-
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bus, with no less quickness than ingenuity, assigned a reason for this appearance, which, though it did not satisfy himself, seemed so plausible to them, that it dispelled their fears, or silenced their murmurs.

The sailors always discontented, and alarmed at their distance from land, several times mutinied, threatened once to throw their admiral overboard, and insisted on his returning. Columbus on these trying occasions, displayed all that cool deliberation, prudence, soothing address, and firmness, which were necessary for a person engaged in a discovery, the most interesting to the world of any ever undertaken by man.

It was on the 11th of October, 1492, at ten o'clock in the evening, that Columbus from the fore-castle descried a light. And at two o'clock the next morning, October 12th, 1492, three hundred years ago this day, Roderic Triana discovered land. The joyful tidings were quickly communicated to the other ships. The morning light confirmed the report; and the several crews began *Te Deum*; as a hymn of thanksgiving to God; and mingled their praises with tears of joy and transports of congratulation. Columbus, richly dressed with a drawn sword in his hand, first set his foot on the new world which he had discovered. The island on which he first landed he called, *St. Salvador*; it is one of that large cluster of islands,
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known by the name of the Lucaya or Bahama isles, of which New Providence is at present one of the most noted. Sailing farther to the southward, he discovered the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola, two of the largest of the West-India islands, which he found full of inhabitants, and abounding in all the necessaries of life.

Thus, on this day, three hundred years ago, that great man, Christopher Columbus discovered those islands, which ought to have been called The Columbian Islands; and the continent, which he discovered in his third voyage, ought in all reason to have been called Columbia. But, alas! this great man did not meet with the returns of gratitude and respect which he merited, no, not so much as to have his name given to the country which he discovered. Americus Vespucius obtained that honour without having any claim to it. He was a Florentine gentleman, whom Ferdinand had appointed to draw sea charts, and to whom he had given the title of Chief Pilot. This man accompanied Ojeda an enterprizing Spanish adventurer to the new world, and having with much art, and some degree of elegance, drawn up an amusing history of his voyage, he published the same, and it circulated rapidly, and was read with admiration. In his narrative, he insinuated that the glory of discovering the continent in the new world belonged to him. This was in part believed, and the country began

began to be called after the name of its supposed first discoverer. The unaccountable caprice of mankind has perpetuated the error; so that hitherto, by the universal consent of all nations, this new quarter of the globe has been called *America*. The name of Americus has supplanted that of Columbus, and mankind are left to regret an act of injustice, which, having been sanctioned by time, it will be found difficult, if not impossible, wholly to redress. Nevertheless I sincerely wish the United States would make the attempt, by altering the name in their jurisdiction, and styling themselves, THE UNITED STATES OF COLUMBIA.

As for Columbus himself, the latter part of his life was made wretched by the cruel and ignoble envy, and persecutions of his enemies. Queen Isabella, his friend and patroness, was no longer alive to afford him relief; he sought redress from Ferdinand, but in vain.

Disgusted with the ingratitude of a monarch, whom he had served with so much fidelity and success, exhausted with hardships, and broken with the infirmities which these had brought upon him, Columbus ended his active and useful life at Valladolid, on the 20th of May, 1506, in the 59th year of his age. He died with a composure of mind, suited to the magnanimity of his character, and with sentiments of piety becoming that supreme respect for religion which he manifested in every occurrence of

of his life. He was grave, though courteous in his deportment, circumspect in his words and actions, irreproachable in his morals, and exemplary in all the duties of his religion. Thus much for Columbus. Those who are the greatest benefactors of mankind, seldom meet with much gratitude from men in their lives. They must look to God for their reward, and leave it to future generations to do justice to their memory.

It was very unfortunate for the natives of America, that the country fell into the hands of such a cruel, covetous, and bigotted nation as the Spaniards were. Their thirst for gold was insatiable, and the cruelties which they exercised upon the natives are too horrid to recite. The Spanish writers themselves tell us, that in the course of forty years they destroyed fifteen millions of these poor unsuspecting creatures. There is a great deal of blood to be required of that nation, and the time of its visitation is perhaps not far distant.

For more than a hundred and ten years from the first discovery of the country, the Spaniards were the only Europeans that made any permanent settlements upon any of the islands, or any part of the continent. Several attempts had indeed been made by the English and French nations to establish settlements in America, but all proved abortive for about an hundred and fifteen years.

The first permanent English settlement that was
made

made in America was in Virginia, at a place called James Town, in the year 1607, in the reign of James I, king of England, and even this settlement, on the 7th of June, 1610, was broke up with intent to return to England, but fortunately the day after they sailed they met Lord Delaware coming over with fresh recruits, and he persuaded them to return with him to James Town, where they landed the 10th of June, and from that time kept possession.

The settlement in New England was begun in the month of November, 1620, at a place called Plymouth, about 40 miles from Boston, in the state of Massachusetts. This settlement first consisted of a few poor persecuted Christians, about an hundred and one in number, who landed upon an unknown and unhospitable shore, in a very inclement season of the year. Their situation was distressing, and their prospect truly dismal and discouraging. Their nearest neighbours, except the natives, were a small Dutch settlement at New York, a French settlement at Port Royal, and one of the English at Virginia. The nearest of these was 200 miles from them, and utterly incapable of affording them relief, in time of famine and danger. Wherever they turned their eyes, distress was before them. Persecuted for their religion, in their native land—grieved for the profanation of the Lord's day, and other licentiousness in Holland—
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land—fatigued by their long and boisterous voyage—disappointed through the treachery of their commander, of their expected country—forced on a dangerous and unknown shore, in the advance of a cold winter—surrounded by hostile barbarians, without any hope of human succour—denied the aid or favour of the court of England—without a patent—without a public promise of the peaceable enjoyment of their religious liberties—worn out with toils and sufferings—without convenient shelter from the rigours of the weather. Such were the prospects, and such the situation of these pious solitary christians. To add to their distresses, a general and very mortal sickness prevailed among them, which swept off forty six of their number before the opening of the next Spring. To support them under these trials, they had need of all the aids and comforts which christianity affords; and these were sufficient. The free and unmolested enjoyment of their religion, reconciled them to their humble and lonely situation—they bore their hardships with unexampled patience, and persevered in their pilgrimage of almost unparalled trials, with such resignation and calmness, as gave proof of great piety and unconquerable virtue.

And God was pleased to preserve and prosper this feeble settlement, so that it never was broken up; but it hath remained to this day, though so many other attempts from worldly motives had
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been entirely frustrated, although encouraged by government, and apparently ten times abler to subsist than this.

But I cannot pretend to give an history of the English settlements in America, from their commencement to the present time. I can only consider the great importance of the discovery of America as it appears at present, and conjecture a little as to the time to come.

The discovery of America has opened an amazing field for speculation to all sorts of enquirers ; the philosopher, the natural historian, the chymist, the botanist, the politician, the poet and the divine, may all find ample room to range in this wide field ; the numerous subjects can hardly ever be exhausted, and the pleasure which curious and enquiring minds may find in their several enquiries is inexpressible.

The first question that naturally strikes an inquisitive mind is, How came this vast continent, which is at such a distance from Europe, to be peopled ? Or, from whence did the first settlers come ? This question has perplexed all enquirers until the present age ; but it is now made as easy by the late discoveries of the famous Captain Cook, and his companions, as it was difficult before. In his last voyage he sailed so far to the northward, on the backside of the continent, as to discover with certainty, that Asia and America are separated by a straight only 18 miles wide ;
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they had the pleasure of seeing both continents at once from the ships' decks as they sailed between them. And they discovered that the inhabitants on each continent are similar, and that they frequently pass and repass in canoes from one shore to the other. There is therefore no room to doubt but the general part of the natives of America came from the north-east parts of Asia, and first crossed over upon the ice in the Winter, or in their canoes in the Summer, both which might be easily done. And it is not yet determined with certainty, but that the two continents of Asia and America may join together somewhere in the polar circle. But if not, there is little or no difficulty in accounting for the first settlement of America, as the straight between them is so narrow. But since the Esquimaux Indians are manifestly a separate species of men, distinct from all the nations of the American continent, in language, in disposition, and in habits of life; and in all these respects bear a near resemblance to the northern Europeans, it is therefore believed that they emigrated from the north west parts of Europe. Several circumstances confirm this belief. As early as the ninth century, the Norwegians discovered Greenland, and planted colonies there. The communication with that country, after long interruption, has been renewed in the present century. Some Moravian Missionaries, prompted by zeal for propagating the christian

faith, have ventured to settle in this frozen region. From them we learn that the north-west coast of Greenland is separated from America by a very narrow strait, if separated at all; and that the Esquimaux of America, perfectly resemble the Greenlanders in their aspect, dress, mode of living, and language. By these decisive facts, not only the consanguinity of the Esquimaux and Greenlanders is established, but the possibility of peopling America from the north-west parts of Europe. On the whole, it appears rational to conclude, that the progenitors of all the American nations, from Cape Horn to the southern limits of Labrador, from the similarity of their aspect, colour, &c. migrated from the north-east parts of Asia; and that the nations that inhabit Labrador, Esquimaux, and the parts adjacent, from their unlikeness to the rest of the American nations, and their resemblance to the northern Europeans, came over from the north-west parts of Europe.

It is further evident, that the first inhabitants of America came from the northern parts of the globe, and not from the southern; because that in all America there was not found any animal that properly belonged to the warm or temperate countries of the eastern continent, nor any but such as were capable of passing through the cold regions of the north, by which course they undoubtedly came to that country. And therefore the two continents
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towards the northern extremity are so nearly united as that these animals might pass from the one to the other.

Another question may be asked of considerable importance, respecting the original inhabitants of America, and that is, From what original stock did those proceed who came from the north-east part of Asia? I am very apt to conclude, from a variety of circumstances, and several well established facts, that they are some of the remains of the ten tribes of the children of Israel. Neither is the objection which some have made to this opinion of any weight with me, viz. that the ten tribes had the knowledge of letters, and knew how to read and write, but the American Indians were totally ignorant of these noble arts. For it seems probable to me that the Israelites, even in their own land, before the captivity, had not generally the knowledge of letters among them as we have, not by any means so perfectly, or so universally: it must have been still more difficult to have retained this knowledge in a state of captivity, and perhaps their conquerors might have destroyed what few manuscripts they found amongst them, and perhaps forbid them to teach their children letters; and thus in a very few generations all that kind of knowledge might be totally forgotten. It is well known that the getting and keeping knowledge requires considerable labour and toil; but it may be very easily lost by in-

dolence and inattention, to which the nature of man too much tends, and especially in a savage, and more so in a captive state. But above all, facts are stubborn things, and it is well known that many nations who once were renowned for wisdom and learning, are now as much noted for their stupidity and ignorance, even though they have continued in their own land; how much more probable it is that these poor captives should, in so many removals, have lost the little knowledge their ancestors once possessed!

Besides, before the art of printing was invented, it was an hundred times easier for people to be deprived of the knowledge of letters than it would be now.

America contains many subjects of speculation besides its inhabitants; such as its amazing extent, near eight thousand miles in length, and in some places, three thousand in breadth; its unbounded forests; its unexplored countries; its vast and extensive lakes; its amazing rivers, the longest and largest in the world; its astonishing mountains, the loftiest and most extensive on the globe; its numerous mineral, animal, and vegetable productions. All these are great subjects, and afford much matter for speculation. Nature, in America, acts upon a very large scale; it is a world by itself; well watered every where, and filled with plenty of all good things. Its brooks would in Europe be called
rivers,

rivers, its lakes *seas*; its hills *mountains*; but its highest mountains and largest rivers, have nothing in the old world to compare with them. Rivers of more than three thousand miles in length, and in some places, an hundred and fifty miles wide; and ridges of mountains three or four thousand miles in length, and in some places more than twenty thousand feet in height, are such stupendous wonders of nature as are not elsewhere to be found.

But the discovery of America hath not only opened a wide field for speculation, but an amazing place for habitation. The present number of its inhabitants are commonly reckoned at 160 millions, but this is a most extravagant mistake, which the least reflection might correct. For it must be acknowledged that the United States, taken together, are far more populous than any other place of equal extent in America; and yet their whole population, except the Indians within their territories, did not a year ago amount to four millions; but allowing Indians and all, that there are five millions within their boundaries, which I believe is more than the truth; and then, granting for argument's sake, that all America is equally populous taken together, which certainly it is not, yet in that case the number of the inhabitants would not exceed 70 millions; as the boundaries of the United States contain the 14th part of the whole continent. But as it is well known that the savages, from their man-

ner of life, and their subsistence being chiefly from hunting, &c. require a vastly larger extent of land to subsist upon, in proportion to their numbers than those who cultivate the earth, we cannot suppose those vast unknown tracts of country over which they rove to contain a tenth part of the inhabitants, in proportion as the cultivated and civilized countries do; and therefore instead of 70 millions of inhabitants in America, I should by no means imagine them to exceed 20 millions in the whole; composed of aboriginal natives, Europeans, and their descendants, and Africans that have been imported for the purposes of slavery, and their descendants.

But if all America was as populous as the state of Connecticut, it would contain near seven hundred millions of inhabitants; if it was inhabited in proportion to Great Britain, it would contain one thousand and five hundred millions; or if it was as fully peopled as Holland, which is the most populous part of Europe, it would contain three thousand three hundred and four millions, or about four times the present supposed inhabitants of the globe. Considered in this light, what an astonishing scene rises to our view! God, who formed the earth, created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited; and I have no doubt that before the conflagration takes place, the earth shall be inhabited and cultivated to the utmost possible extent; this shall be in the glorious millenium, or the thousand years

years reign of Christ on the earth; which happy period is fast approaching, and I trust is even at the door. Then, and not till then, shall the full importance of the discovery of America be known. From America, the greater part of the gold and silver of Europe, has been imported; that amazing quantity of wealth which the several nations of Europe possess has been chiefly derived from that country. About five millions sterling are annually imported in silver and gold from America, into Lisbon and Cadiz, and thence dispersed through all Europe. So that the sum of one thousand and five hundred millions sterling, in gold and silver, has been imported into Europe from America since its first discovery. And I am rather of opinion that this calculation is below the truth. Considered in this light, of what great importance was the discovery of America, and how it has enriched the world at large, and especially Europe!

America has been, is now, and will continue to be, of vast importance to the world in general, and to Europe in particular, in a commercial point of view. The commerce of America is astonishing, and constantly enriches Europe, and will continue and greatly encrease. From America are imported vast quantities of raw materials of great consequence to the manufacturers of Europe; from thence are brought most of the luxuries, and many of the necessities, of life. All these are paid for in the manufactured

manufactured goods of Europe, &c, besides a vast balance of trade in favour of Europe, which is paid in bullion or specie. America is sufficient, if properly peopled and cultivated, to supply all Europe with provisions, and may be such a resource in time of scarcity and distress, as will prove highly beneficial to the inhabitants of the old world.

Considered in all these and many other points of light, the discovery of America has been, and will continue to be, of vast importance to mankind.

But above all, I consider the discovery of America as of the greatest importance to mankind, as it has pleased God to distinguish it from all other countries, in causing it to be the first place upon the globe where equal, civil, and religious liberty has been established.

If my styling America, in the beginning of this discourse, *the very birth place of civil and religious liberty*, should be looked upon as too bold a figure of speech, yet I trust none will refuse to allow it to be the very first country where true equal, civil, and religious liberty has been *established*.

The United States of America, have the happiness of teaching the world the following, grand, and important lessons.

1 That it is possible for a large and extensive country to be ruled by a republican form of government, without monarchy or aristocracy.

2. That

2. That religious worship may be well supported without any legal establishment; and that, to allow all to think freely for themselves in matters of religion, and worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, is the best policy.
3. That to place all denominations upon an exact equal footing, is the ready way to destroy all animosity and strife, all bigotry, persecution and intolerance, and tends effectually to promote peace, harmony, and good will, in the community.
4. That church and state may both subsist and flourish without being allied together; Christ's kingdom is not of this world; and if all the kingdoms and governments of the earth were overturned, the church would still remain, for it can never be destroyed. And it is certain that political government may exist without any support from the church. The idea that Church and State must be married together, in order to exist, and that, if one falls, the other must come down, is false and absurd to the last degree.
5. That changing the punishment of death for hard labour and confinement, tends to prevent crimes, far more than the penal code of laws, which inflicts death as the punishment of almost every offence.
6. That the more mild and equitable government

is,

is, the more happy and contented the people will be, and that such a government, far from being weaker and more inefficacious than arbitrary governments, is really far stronger, and is not in so much danger of being overturned.

7. America has also shewn the world, that to admit the Jews to all the privileges of natural born subjects, is far from being a dangerous experiment, as has been generally supposed. I cannot see that allowing them such privileges destroys one prophecy, or will in the least hinder their return to their own land, when the time shall come. And I am far from being afraid, that God will be angry with the United States for giving to Jews, in common with other nations, the equal blessings of protection, liberty, property, &c. I find threatenings in Scripture against those nations that have afflicted the Jews, but none against those who afford them rest and peace. And I am happy in being able to say, that the government of the United States has never been guilty of oppressing that despised nation, but on the contrary, invites all (who choose to reside in that country) to a full and equal participation of all the blessings and privileges which they themselves enjoy.

These are a few of the important lessons which the United States of America have the honour and
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happiness of teaching the world at large, both by precept and practice. And I hope the time is not far distant, when all the world shall learn and practise these lessons in a still more perfect manner than they are yet practised in America itself.

The message which the Lord sent by St. John the Divine, to the Church of Philadelphia in Asia, has been, and will be, remarkably fulfilled in Philadelphia in America; "Behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." This is the door of civil and religious liberty, which begun to be opened in Philadelphia, in North America; and no man has been able hitherto, or ever shall be able, to shut it; and it will spread throughout the world.

Thus it is plain, that the discovery of America was not only a great event in itself, but has been of great consequence to the world of mankind in general; and to Europe in particular.

But the importance of the discovery will appear greater and greater every year; and one century to come will improve America far more than the three centuries past.

The prospect opens, it extends itself upon us; "The wilderness and solitary place shall rejoice, the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose." I look forward to that glorious æra, when that vast continent shall be fully populated with civilized and religious people; when heavenly wisdom and virtue, and
all

all that can civilize, adorn, and bless, the children of men, shall cover that part of the globe, as the water cover the seas!

Transported at the thought, I am borne forward to days of distant renown! In my expanded view, the United States rise in all their ripened glory before me. I look through and beyond every yet peopled region of the New World, and behold period, still brightening upon period. Where one contiguous depth of gloomy wilderness now shuts out even the beams of day, I see new states and empires, new seats of wisdom and knowledge, new religious domes, spreading around. In places now untrod by any but savage beasts, or men as savage as they, I hear the voice of happy labour, and behold beautiful cities rising to view!

Lo, in this happy picture, I behold the native Indian exulting in the works of peace and civilization! his bloody hatchet he buries deep under ground, and his murderous knife he turns into a pruning hook,—to lop the tender vine, and teach the luxuriant shoot to grow. No more does he form to himself a heaven after death (according to the poet) in company with his faithful dog, behind the cloud-topped hill, to enjoy solitary quiet, far from the haunts of faithless men; but, better instructed by Christianity, he views his everlasting inheritance,—“a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

Instead

Instead of recounting to his offspring, round the blazing fire, the bloody exploits of their ancestors, and wars of savage death, shewing barbarous exultation over every deed of human woe, methinks I hear him pouring forth his eulogies of praise, in memory of those who were the instruments of Heaven, in raising his tribes from darkness to light; in giving them the blessings of civilized life, and converting them from violence and blood, to meekness and love.

Behold the whole continent highly cultivated and fertilized, full of cities, towns and villages, beautiful and lovely beyond expression. I hear the praises of my great Creator sung upon the banks of those rivers unknown to song. Behold the delightful prospect! see the silver and gold of America employed in the service of the Lord of the whole earth! See Slavery, with all its train of attendant evils, for ever abolished! See a communication opened through the whole continent, from North to South, and from East to West, through a most fruitful country! Behold the glory of God extending, and the gospel spreading, through the whole land!

O, my native country! though I am far distant from thy peaceful shores, which probably my eyes may never more behold! yet I can never forget thee. May thy great Creator bless thee, and make thee a happy land, while thy rivers flow and thy mountains endure! And, though he has spoken
nothing

nothing plainly in his word concerning thee, yet has he blest thee abundantly, and given thee good things in possession, and a prospect of more glorious things in time to come. His name shall be known, feared, and loved, through all thy western regions, and to the utmost bounds of thy vast extensive continent.

O, America! land of liberty, peace, and plenty! in thee I drew my first breath, in thee all my kindred dwell. I beheld thee in thy lowest state crushed down under misfortunes, struggling with poverty, war, and disgrace; I have lived to behold thee free and independent, rising to glory and extensive empire; blessed with all the good things of this life, and a happy prospect of better things to come. I can say, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation," which thou hast made known to my native land, in the sight, and to the astonishment, of all the nations of the earth.

I die; but God will surely visit America, and make it a vast flourishing and extensive empire; will take it under his protection, and bless it abundantly—but the prospect is too glorious for my pen to describe. I add no more.

FINIS.

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